

Heritage Walks with Surekha Narain

Hornbill festival in Nagaland +++ (6 nights / 7 days)

Our dates: Fri. to Wed.: - Dec. 1 to 7, 2024: We travel from Delhi to Dimapur by air and have an overnight stay in Dimapur as the flight arrives late. The next day we travel to Kohima by taxi/ tempo traveler and stay in Kigwema, next to the festival. We return to Dimapur early morning on Dec. 7 to catch the flight back to Delhi.

Our itinerary: The Hornbill Festival is a celebration held every year from 1 to 10 December, in Nagaland, Northeast India. It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'. The state is home to 17 major tribes, each with its own distinctive culture. Both traditional music and modern bands perform during Hornbill. Meeting of Naga textiles, food, culture at your doorstep. Besides spending time at the festival we visit some villages- Kigwema & Khonoma. Once the festival itinerary is published, Jotsoma and climb Pulebadze mountain are possible options. In Kohima, the capital we visit cemeteries and museums too.

Our stay:- For our first night we stay in Dimapur, in a cozy guesthouse that encompasses Naga traditions. We are introduced to the Naga culture via a craft tour during our short stay. Our stay for the rest of the trip is in a homestay close to the Kigwema village. This is in a guest house situated in a quiet foothills of mount Japfu. The home is in a modern building surrounded by nature. We are walking distance from the festival and this place has been chosen to keep in mind the traffic during the festival time.

Charges:- Provided on request. Once 8 to 10 people confirm the tour is on. Limited accommodation, best to get a double room with your own preferred snoring partner.

This includes- 1. Our stay with breakfast and dinner 2. All meals (from day 1 evening to breakfast on the last day) without drinks. 3. Transport (Innova taxi or tempo traveler) for the trip from Dimapur airport and back. 4. All walks, treks, and sightseeing with entry into the festival.

This excludes- 1. Your airfares 2. Any tips to guides, staff, etc. 3. Any other personal expenses at the homestay, shopping, etc. 2. Expenses at the airports and flights.

Registration: Please email your participation by stating no. of people by no later than Sept. 5th. Once 8 to 10 people confirm, will provide flight details to book your own tickets. On registration 50% of the payment, balance by Oct. 20. Cancellation charges during the Festival for both the stay and transport are very stringent. You lose 50% of the amount if you cancel by Oct. and the full amount one month before the festival. There is only one direct flight to Dimapur and also not every day and limited accommodation. So request you all to confirm as soon as possible.

Inner line Permits: I have visited Nagaland House close to the embassies in Chanakyapuri. Indian citizens need to get an Inner Line Permit by filling up a simple form and paying a nominal fee. We drop off our completed forms in the morning and the permit is issued by the evening. Foreigners do not need any permission. They will need to fill a form at the Dimapur airport.

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